

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

~~SUB A1~~ 1. An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images, comprising:
input means for inputting relevant information concerning each object in an image; and
memory means for storing the relevant information input by said input means in association with respective objects.

2. An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

3. An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in an image.

~~SUB A2~~ 4. An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information is relationship information expressing a relationship between one object in an image and another object in the image.

5. An image managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of words can be specified as the

qualifier.

6. An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes position designating means for designating a position of an object of interest in an image displayed on a display screen, and display means for displaying an input window used to input relevant information at the designated position.

7. An image managing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in an image.

8. An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising retrieval requirement input means for inputting requirements for retrieval, and image retrieving means for retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval input by said retrieval requirement input means.

9. An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of an image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather

information thereof, and event information thereof.

10. An image retrieving apparatus for retrieving images, comprising:

memory means for storing objects contained in images in association with relevant information concerning the objects;

retrieval requirement input means for inputting requirements for retrieval; and

retrieving means for retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval input by said retrieval requirement input means based on the relevant information stored in said memory means.

11. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

12. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in an image.

SUB A37 13. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information is relationship

information expressing a relationship between one object in an image and another object in the image.

14. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a plurality of words can be specified as the qualifier.

15. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a position designating means for designating a position of an object of interest in an image displayed on a display screen, and display means for displaying an input window used to input relevant information at the designated position.

16. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in an image.

17. An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of an image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

18. An image managing method for managing retrievable images, comprising:

an input step of inputting relevant information concerning each object in an image; and

a storage step of storing the relevant information input in said input step in association with respective objects.

19. An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

20. An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in an image.

SUB A4) 21. An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information is relationship information expressing a relationship between one object in an image and another object in the image.

22. An image managing method according to claim 19, wherein a plurality of words can be specified as the

~~qualifier.~~

23. An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in an image displayed on a display screen, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input relevant information at the designated position.

24. An image managing method according to claim 23, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects are designated in an image.

25. An image managing method according to claim 18, further comprising a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval input in said retrieval requirement input step.

26. An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein, in said input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of an image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather

information thereof, and event information thereof is input.

27. An image retrieving method for retrieving images, comprising:

a storage step of storing objects contained in images in association with relevant information concerning the objects;

a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval input in said retrieval requirement input step based on the stored relevant information.

28. An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

29. An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in an image.

SUB A5 30. An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information is relationship information

expressing a relationship between one object in an image and another object in the image.

31. An image managing method according to claim 28, wherein a plurality of words can be specified as the qualifier.

32. An image managing method according to claim 27, further comprising a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in an image displayed on a display screen, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input relevant information at the designated position.

33. An image managing method according to claim 32, wherein, in said position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects are designated in an image.

34. An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein, in said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of an image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

35. A storage medium in which is stored a program for implementing an image managing method for managing retrievable stored images, the program comprising:

program coded for an input step of inputting relevant information concerning each object in an image; and

program coded for a storage step of storing the relevant information input in the input step in association with respective objects stored in said storage medium.

36. A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

37. A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in an image.

SUB A(4) 38. A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information is relationship information expressing a relationship between one object in an image and another object in the image.

39. A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein a

plurality of words can be specified as the qualifier.

40. A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein said program coded for the input step includes program coded for a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in an image displayed on a display screen, and program coded for a display step of displaying an input window used to input relevant information at the designated position.

41. A storage medium according to claim 40, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects are designated in an image.

42. A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the program further comprises program coded for a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval, and program coded for an image retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval input in the retrieval requirement input step.

43. A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein, in the input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of an image, special object information thereof, category information

thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is input.

44. A storage medium in which is stored a program for implementing an image retrieving method for retrieving stored images, the program comprising:

program coded for a storage step of storing objects contained in images in association with relevant information concerning the objects;

program coded for a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval; and

program coded for a retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval input at the retrieval requirement input step based on the stored relevant information stored in said storage medium.

45. A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

46. A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in an image.

Sub A1 47. A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information is relationship information expressing a relationship between one object in an image and another object in the image.

48. A storage medium according to claim 45, wherein a plurality of words can be specified as the qualifier.

49. A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the program further comprises program coded for a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in an image displayed on a display screen, and program coded for a display step of displaying an input window used to input relevant information at the designated position.

50. A storage medium according to claim 49, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects are designated in an image.

51. A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein, in the storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of an image, special object information thereof, category information

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thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

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